

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR AF JAMES AND AF/W SMITH FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID PC MR

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN MAURITANIA: PC AND/
OR IVS

REF: (A) STATE 112874, (B) HM7"\$39112708, (C) NOUAKCHOTT 1152

1. I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU BOTH FOR YOUR QUICK AND EFFECTIVE INTER-
VENTION ON THE PEACE CORPS MANAGEMENT AND THE PC AND/OR
IVS ISSUES I WINGED YOUR WAY LAST WEEK. BACKGROUND CONTAINED
BOTH IN YOUR TELEGRAM (REF A) AND DAVID SHEAR'S EQUALLY WELCOME
RESPONSE (REF B) ON SUCCESSFUL COEXISTENCE OF PC AND IVS IS AT
ONCE ENLIGHTENING AND REASSURING. I CAN NOW RELAX KNOWING THAT
A DECISION TO SUPPORT BOTH VOLUNTEER MANPOWER PROGRAMS IN MAURI-
TANIA WILL NOT NECESSARILY PRODUCE CONGRESSIONAL OR PUBLIC CRI-
TICISM OF BUREAUCRATIC PROFLIGACY. OR IF IT DOES, I CBWWBE
CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND OUR DECISION ON BASIS
OF HOMEWORK DONE IN ADVANCE.

2. THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT IVS WITH ITS MJ
EXPERIENCED AND PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS CAN MAKE AN EFFECTIVE
CONTRIBUTION TO MAURITANIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EFFORT. AND I AM COMING SLOWLY TO CONCLUSION, AS I SUG-
GESTED IN MY WIRE TO JOHN TORIAN (REF C), THAT PARTICULAR
STRENGTHS AND CHARACTERISTICS WHICH SET PEACE CORPS
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APART FROM OTHER VOLUNTEER MANPOWER ORGANIZATIONS WILL

PERMIT PC AS WELL TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENT. THIS IN ADDITION TO ACHIEVEMENT OF OTHER GOALS (POLITICAL/DIPLOMATIC, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PCVS THEMSELVES, IMPACT OF RETURNEES ON US, ETC.) WHICH ARE BUILT INTO PC PROGRAM AND ORGANIZATION.

3. PRHVPBED, OF COURSE, THAT PC PROGRAM IN MAURITANIA CAN BE MADE EFFECTIVE. IN THIS AREA, YOUR MOST WELCOME WIRE IS LESS REASSURING. EITHER PC/W STILL DOES NOT APPRECIATE FULLY THE STARKNESS OF MANAGEMENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS HERE, OR THEY ARE NOT LEVELING WITH YOU. THERE IS NO WAY, FOR EXAMPLE, "HOPEFULLY" OR OTHERWISE THAT EIGHT NEW PCVS CAN ARRIVE HERE ABOUT FRANS DEPART--UNLESS PC/W HAS NEW VOLUNTEERS ALL SET TO BOARD AN AIRPLANE BOUND FOR NOUAKCHOTT NEXT WEEK AND HAS NOT INFORMED PC/M OF THE ARRANGEMENTS. FIRST VETERAN LEAVES BEFORE END OF MAY; SECOND IN JUNE; LAST TWO WILL BE GONE BY MID-JULY. ACCORDING TO LATEST RECRUITING/TRAINING SCHEDULE WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM PC/W, EIGHT NEW VOLUNTEERS WILL NOT REPORT NOT BE IN PLACE IN MAURITANIA UNTIL LATE SEPTEMBER AT END OF TEN-WEEK TRAINING PROGRAM IN DAKAR SLATED TO BEGIN MID-JULY.

4. WHILE PINCH-HITTERS WENDY AND BARTZ ARE DOING VERY GOOD JOB OF KEEPING PC PROGRAM FROM SLIPPING BACKWARD ANY FURTHER, THIS JURY-RIGGED SOLUTION IS ONLY GOING TO LAST ANOTHER MONTH. BOB WIND'S CONTRACT EXPIRES JUNE 15. (HE RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO EXTEND IT ONCE AND TO AND PROGRAM CHORES TO HIS TRACKING RESPONSIBILITIES.) HE IS NOT REPORT NOT INTERESTED IN RENEWING AGAIN. INDEED HE HAS ALREADY MADE FIRM PLANS AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS TO DEPHBO MAURITANIA PERMANENTLY ZOFMA JUNE 25 TO PURSUE HIS LINGUISTIC RESEARCHES IN EAST AFRICA. HELEN BARTZ REMINDS ME PERIODICALLY THAT SHE IS ONLY A SECRETARY NOT A PROGRAM EXECUTIVE, AND THAT WHILE ABLE TO HANDLE ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE CHORES SHE HAS NEITHER KNOWLEDGE NOR FRENCH REQUIRED TO PURSUE ENDLESS INVENTORY OF PCV SUPPORT PROBLEMS WITH KEEPERS OF GIRM BUREAUCRACY. INDEED, IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF SKILLED, BIRD-DOGGING MANHOURS VNTNERED BY NORMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GARNER (AID PROJECT OFFICER), PCVS ON SITE WOULD BE EVEN SHORTER OF SPARE PARTS, GASOLINE, PAY CHECKS AND OTHER THINGS WHICH MUST ON CONTINUING BASIS BE PRIED OUT OF MINISTRIES.

5. IN BURST OF PENT-UP FRUSTRATION, HELEN BARTZ TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT LATE AUGUST ARRIVAL OF NEW DIRECTOR WAS SIMPLY NOT GOOD ENOUGH, AND DECLARED FLATLY

THAT IF PC/W DID NOT GET FULL-TIME BOSS HERE BY EARLY SUMMER, THERE WOULD BE NO PC PROGRAM LEFT IN SEPTEMBER FOR DUMONT OR ANYONE ELSE TO RUN. OCCASIONAL VISIT BY DAKAR CIRCUIT RIDER, PROPOSED BY TORIAN, WILL NOT RPT NOT SUFFICE. MOREOVER, UPCOMING FSL PERSONNEL CRISIS (TWO AID SECRETARIES HAVE ALREADY GONE; TWO EMBASSY SECRETARIES DEPARTING MID-JUNE WITH THIRD BEGINNING MATERNITY LEAVE IN JULY WITH NO RPT NO REPLACEMENTS IN SIGHT) WILL THRUST SO MUCH ADDITIONAL WORK ON AMERICAN STAFF THAT THERE WILL BE NO MISSION MANHOURS LEFT TO THROW INTO PC BREACH. IT IS FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT 101 SUPPORT ACTIONS WHICH MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN AUGUST AND EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR EVERY ONE OF EIGHT NEW PCVS IN ORDER TO MAKE INSTALLATION OF EIGHT NEW VOLUNTEERS IN LATE SEPTEMBER POSSIBLE SIMPLY WILL NOT RPT NOT BE DONE. EVEN IF DUMONT CAN WALK ON WATER, HE CANNOT DO SIX WEEKS OF INSISTING, CAJOLING, IMPROVISING, AND FOLLOW UP IN TWO. WITH RESULT THAT EIGHT MORE VOLUNTEERS START TO WORK IN MAURITANIA WITH BAD TASTE IN THEIR MOUTHS, THUS PROLONGING CORROSION WHICH HAS PLAGUED PROGRAM FOR PAST TWO YEARS.

6. FINALLY, DECISION OF PC/W TO PAUSE TO REASSESS AND EVALUATE PENDING RESOLUTION OF SAHARA DISPUTE IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO THOSE OF US HERE ON SCENE. WHILE FESTERING SAHARA PROBLEM MAY CONCEIVABLY HAVE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON RECRUITING OF NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR MAURITANIA PROGRAM, IT HAS LITTLE OR NO EFFECT ON EXISTING PCVS OR THEIR ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER, SINCE EXISTING VOLUNTEER SITES, WITH EXCEPTION OF ATAR, ARE IN OR ARE SOUTH AND EAST OF CAPITAL, AND RECRUITING FOR ANY NEW SLOTS CAN BE LIMITED TO THOSE SIMILARLY LOCATED, NEITHER REPLACEMENTS NOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS WILL ENCOUNTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANASAHARA EFFECT PHYSICAL OR PROGRAM. APART FROM POSSIBLE RECRUITING IMPACT, I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE PC/W IS EITHER INACCURATELY INFORMED ON SAHARA PROBLEM OR THAT "REASSESS AND EVALUATE" IS IN FACT FORMULA PC MANAGERS ARE USING TO FUZZ OVER THEIR CONTINUING UNWILLINGNESSTO MAKE TOUGH DECISION OF EITHER COMMITTING NECESSARY RESOURCES TO MAURITANIA OR GETTING OUT. RESULT IS REPUTATION OF PC IN MAURITANIA IS ROCKBOTTOM.

7. PERHAPS THERE IS NO REAL ALTERNATIVE TO FOLDING OUR HANDS AND WAITING QUIETLY FOR WASHINGTON MASTADON TO GESTATE NEW PROGRAM MANAGER (LIKE TDY ASSIGNMENT OF ACTING RESIDENT DIRECTOR FROM JUNE 15 TO SEPTEMBER 1). BUT WAITING QUIETLY WHILE SITUATION GROWS OBVIOUSLY AND PUBLICLY WORSE IS EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT FOR THIS

ACTIVIST CREW REPRESENTING A NATION WHICH PRIDES ITSELF
ON ITS MANAGERIAL COMPETENCE.HANDYSIDE

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